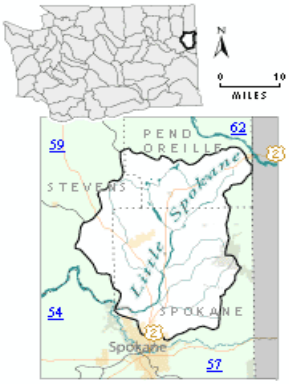
# Little Spokane Basin - WRIA #55

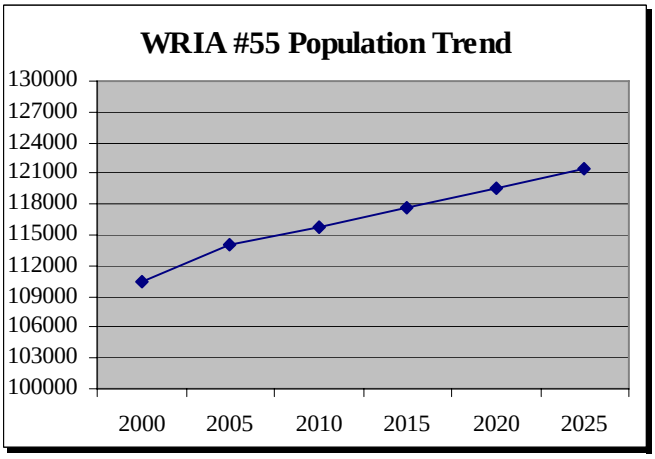



## Watershed Description

**WRIA #55** encompasses about 433,348 acres within the Northern Cascades and Columbia Basin ecoregions. This watershed averages 21 inches of rainfall per year. High mountains are the dominant feature of this region. Elevations range from 1,300 to 6,000 feet. Mountains have sharply-crested ridges and steep slopes cut by steep walled narrow stream valleys. Soils are derived from basic rock. Potential natural vegetation includes western white pine, lodgepole pine, western red cedar, Douglas-fir, wheatgrass, fescue, and needlegrass.

### Population

There are approximately 112,187 people living in the Little Spokane Basin. The primary population centers are Deer Park and Mead. The majority of people live in unincorporated areas. The population graph reflects the combined projected population of those counties located within the watershed (Office of Financial Management population projections).



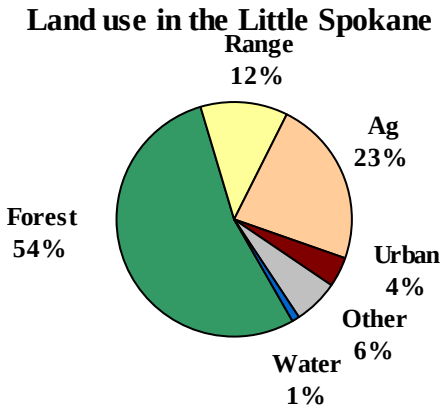
| Counties | % of basin |
|---|---|
| Spokane | 62% |
| Pend Oreille | 25% |
| Stevens | 13% |

| Tribal Reservation Lands in WRIA #55 |
|---|
| none |

Land ownership for WRIA #55 includes state, local, and private lands. Data was derived from the Public Lands Survey by Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

| Land Ownership | Acres | Proportion |
|---|---|---|
| Federal | 0 | 0% |
| State | 20,246 | 4.7% |
| Local | 1,449 | 0.3% |
| Tribal | 0 | 0% |
| Private | 411,652 | 94.9% |

Land use in the Little Spokane Basin is mainly forestry, agriculture, and range-related uses. The general type of known land-use activities[1] within the watershed is graphed according to the percentage of its occurrence.




[1] Category "other" may include perennial ice/snow, bare rock/sand/clay, quarries/strip mines/gravel pits, transitional, barren, and/or wetland areas.

**The primary towns and cities in WRIA #55 include** Deer Park, Mead, Clayton, Elk, Colbert, and Chatteroy.

### Legislative and Congressional Districts

To determine your region's legislative or congressional district, see:

http://www1.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx

To determine Latitude/Longitude coordinates, see:

http://www.topozone.com/

(Make sure you set the button on the bottom of the page to D/M/S - hold the cursor over a spot on the map and the coordinates show at the bottom of the screen.)

Several federal programs refer to watersheds according to their Hydrological Unit Code (HUC). To learn more about your watershed and determine which HUC your town or county is located in, see:

http://water.usgs.gov/wsc/

## Water Quality

### Water Quality Assessment

The statewide Water Quality Assessment categorizes waterbody segments that have water quality data available. The Simple Query Tool and interactive mapping tool allow you to search for specific categories, water bodies, pollutant parameters, and other information, in whatever combination you choose. WRIA #55 has fourteen (14) known Category 5 (impaired) water bodies.

To view the Water Quality Assessment, use the Simple Query Tool.

http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/wats/WATSQBEHome.asp

To view the Water Quality Assessment by Category, choose the Category (1 – 5) you are interested in from the drop down box. To view it by Water Resource Inventory Resource Area (WRIA), choose the WRIA number you are interested in from the drop down box.

Use the Interactive Mapping Tool to see a graphic representation of the Water Quality Assessment. This is a Geographic Information System (GIS) application that helps you find waters you are interested in and information about problems in that water body.

http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/wqawa/viewer.htm

## Domestic Water Supply

No significant use of surface water sources. For further information regarding water supplies, see:

http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/default.htm

## Salmonid Stock Status

Good water quality is important to help salmon survive and thrive. To find out which salmon species are listed as threatened or endangered in a region, see:

http://www.governor.wa.gov/gsro/regions/map.htm

## Air Quality

Water quality can be affected by air quality; for example, windblown dust from construction sites or bare, dry agricultural lands, especially fallow fields, may be transported to waterways. For information about air quality, see:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/Windblown_dust_information.htm

## TMDLs and Other Watershed-Based Plans

For information about Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in your area, see:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/

To learn more about **watershed planning** in Washington State, see:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/watershed/index.html

For **funding applicants,** other useful links can be found at:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/funding/links.html